EXCISE (203)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0102
E.O. 12065: GDS 1/4/86 (DUBOSE, R) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: EASTERN HANOVER SEAT FINALLY OVERTURNED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RB DATE 25 JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. (U) AFTER A YEAR AND FIVE WEEKS OF HEARINGS IN A CASE INSTITUTED IN 1977, SENIOR PUISNE JUDGE JUSTICE PARNELL HAS DECIDED THAT THE ELECTION OF RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) DEPUTY ASTON KING TO THE PARLIAMENT IN THE 1976 ELECTION IS NULL AND VOID. PARNELL DECLARED THAT "IF WHAT WAS BEING PURSUED IN HANOVER EASTERN WA' THE HOLDING OF A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION, IT WAS NOT FAIR, NOR WAS IT AN ELECTION, AND THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT IT WAS NOT GREE IN THE WIDEST MEANING OF THAT WORD." HE DETAILED BALLOT STUFFING, FRAUDULENT REGISTRATION, TOMB-SONE VOTES, ETC.

2. (U) THE JUDGE DECIDED TO MERELY VACATE THE SEAT RATHER THAN TO TURN IT OVER TO THE JAMAICA LABOR PARTY CANDIDATE BASIL BUCK. A BY-ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE, BUT APPARENTLY NOT UNTIL AN APPEAL FROM PARNELL'S DECISION IS DECIDED UPON.

3. (C) COMMENT: IT APPEARS CERTAIN THAT SENATOR BUCK, WHO IS SHADOW FINANCE MINISTER, WILL WIN THE SEAT WHENEVER THE BY-ELECTION TAKES PLACE.

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POLITICS ARE PARTICULARLY ROUGH IN HANOVER. THE DECISION, WHICH WAS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION AFTER THE MASSIVE EVIDENCE PRESENTED, IS A FINE DISPLAY OF JAMAICA'S LEGAL-JUDICIAL SYSTEM, WHICH GRINDS SLOWLY BUT IMPARTIALLY IN THE FINEST WESTERN TRADITIONS. IT IS ALSO ANOTHER BLOW TO PM MANLEY AND THE PNP IN A WINTER OF BLOWS. THE JLP COULD, IF IT CHOOSES, ACCORDING TO ITS LAWYER WINSTON SPAULDING, WIN AT LEAST ANOTHER TWELVE SUCH CASES HANDS DOWN. IT HAS, HOWEVER, NEITHER THE TIME NOR RESOURCES TO BRING CASES FORWARD. MEANWHILE THE JLP CAN BE EXPECTED TO TRUMPET THIS VICTORY AS A SURE SIGN THAT THE ELECTION OF 1976 WAS GENERALLY RIGGED AND FRAUDULENT, AND THAT THE PNP GOVERNMENT IS ILLEGITIMATE.
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